



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

CAREER CRIMINAL CONVICTED BY JURY IN FEDERAL COURT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Boston Field Office William J. Hoover, and New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, announced today that a jury in U.S. District Court in Concord found Gary C. Pratt, age 34, formerly of Whitefield and Manchester, New Hampshire, guilty of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

The verdict concluded a three day jury trial before Chief Judge Steven J. McAuliffe. The defendant convinced a female acquaintance to buy him a Glock pistol at a gun store in Groveton in September 2003. Pratt planned to use the pistol to rob a credit union in Littleton or a supermarket in Manchester.

The defendant has a long criminal history and will qualify as an Armed Career Criminal under federal law. Gary Pratt was convicted of Armed Robbery in Hillsborough County Superior Court in 1986, accomplice to Armed Robbery in 1995 and Escape in 1990. He was also convicted of Burglary in Carroll County Superior Court in 1990 and Assault by Prisoner in Merrimack County in 1988. He also has numerous convictions for Drunk Driving and other motor vehicle violations.

When sentenced by Chief Judge McAuliffe on April 20, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., Pratt faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. He also faces a fine of up to \$250,000.00.

Commenting on the guilty verdict, United States Attorney Colantuono said, "Aggressive investigation and prosecution of career criminals like Gary Pratt is a key component of Project Safe Neighborhoods. The more career criminals that we convict and send to federal prison, the safer New Hampshire will be."

This case was investigated by the New Hampshire State Police Special Investigation Unit, with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and New Hampshire State Police

Forensic Laboratory. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Clyde R.W. Garrigan, who is the Coordinator for Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

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